



# ***Congressman Vito Fossella*** **News from Capitol Hill**



The Latest News & Information from Capitol Hill

February 16, 2006

## **Rep. Fossella Sounds Alarm Over Decision to Allow United Arab Emirates to Control 6 American Ports**

### *Fossella Says Decision Inconsistent With American Efforts to Enhance Homeland Security*

Congressman Vito Fossella (R-NY13) has called for Congressional hearings into the decision by a Treasury Department-led committee to award management of six of the United States' most important ports, including two in the tri-state region, to Dubai Ports World (DP World), a company owned and controlled by the government of Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).



Fossella likened the decision to allowing the UAE to oversee airport security and raised concern over the fact that two of the September 11th hijackers were from the UAE and intelligence officials believe that to some degree planning of the terrorist attacks occurred there.

"At a time when America is leading the world in the War on Terrorism and spending billions of dollars to secure our homeland, we cannot cede control of strategic assets to foreign nations with spotty records on terrorism," Fossella said. "This decision seems inconsistent with American efforts to enhance our national security."

Fossella also joined with a bipartisan group of lawmakers, including Senator Schumer, this morning to urge the Treasury Department to carefully review the new arrangement and scrutinize all security issues before control is turned over to DP World.

Yesterday, Fossella sent a letter to House Homeland Security Chairman Peter King asking for Congressional hearings to learn why the Treasury Department's Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) agreed to allow DP World to operate American ports, its impact on our national security and what steps are being taken to ensure that security is not breached. The ports are in New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Miami, Baltimore and New Orleans.

America's ports are still recognized as among the softest targets in the country as evidenced by the fact that only about 5% of incoming containers are inspected by DHS personnel. The remaining 95% of containers are under the direct control of the port operator, making it critical that this entity be above reproach with respect to security.